

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia SUBJECT Old Steel Works of the Vitkovice Klement Gottwald Iron Works, Ostrava-Vitkovice DATE OF INFO. PLACE ACQUIRED 	REPORT DATE DISTR. 6 January 1955 NO. OF PAGES 4 25X1 REQUIREMENT NO. RD REFERENCES 25X1
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Old Steel Works are located to the northwest of Vitkovice (N49-49, E18-16). The road from Ostrava to Zabreh runs along the northwest side of the plant. The workers' tenements are to the southeast, to the northeast is the hospital, and beyond this is a group of houses for the hospital staff. The works are enclosed on three sides by an iron stake fence, and on the northwest by a concrete fence, 2½ meters high.
2. There are two gatekeepers at each of the entrances to the steel works, armed with pistols. At night, two works militia guards patrol around the factory.
3. About 1,500 employees work in the plant. Of these, 300 are women, who work mostly in the fire clay works. There are always 40 brigade workers in the plant, some of whom are soldiers assigned there for six months. Some 24 25X1 prisoners are employed in repairing the furnaces.
4. Morale is poor, and anti-Communist slogans appear chalked up in various places, especially in the lavatories. Workers are dissatisfied with the regime and wages. The majority of the workers eat in the works dining room. The food is fairly good, especially in the dining room for special diets. Most workers live in private quarters. There are huts for Slovak workers in Vitkovice.
5. All employees receive political instruction for one hour, twice a week, after working hours.
6.
7. The plant casts chrome-steel ingots, steel ingots for axles, cogwheels, shafts; about 350 tank turrets are cast per month (thickness of wall 70 mm, length of casting 3 meters, width 180 cm, height 140 cm). Cast metal is made into axles, hoops, rails, pipes up to 80 cm diameter. Material for armor plates is also being cast. About 42% of production are rejects. The Five-Year Plan is fulfilled

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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100%.

8. Armor plating and armor-plated material produced at the works goes to the USSR. Finished wheels with hoops also go to the USSR. Rails go mostly to Korea, but a small part go to the USSR. Axles go to the USSR. Altogether, some 80% of production is exported to the USSR.

9.

10. The plant has the following machinery:

- a. Tempering shop: 2 pneumatic presses, pneumatic hammer, 3 overhead 15-ton cranes, 6 annealing furnaces, 2 oil and 2 water-tempering vats.
- b. Forge: 2 annealing furnaces, 2 pneumatic machine hammers for forging heavy shafts, 15 spring hammers, 1 machine for making hoops which are riveted onto wheels for railroad cars, 4 pneumatic hammers, 4 small annealing furnaces, 2 50-ton large cranes.
- c. Preparation of compound clay: 1 mixing machine, 1 mill.
- d. Mill for raw material: 1 conveyor belt for moving material to be mixed; several mills.
- e. Mixing department: on the ground floor are 6 grinding machines, and access to the furnaces; on the 2nd floor, 15 mixing machines; on the 3rd floor, about 10 sifting machines.
- f. Machine shop: 4 large lathes, with a reach of 20,000 mm, 10 smaller lathes, with a reach of 3,000 mm, 6 large cogwheeled milling machines, 6 planing machines, 5 boring machines, 3 overhead cranes for heavy weights.
- g. Boiler shop: 4 large expanding presses for pressing boilers, 5 autogenous welders, 5 autogenous cutters.
- h. Pumping station: 4 pumping turbines.

11. The group of buildings comprising the casting house and the fire clay brick shop measures 200 x 110 meters. The latter shop has four stories; the steel works are 35 meters high. The fire clay shop has three departments. Mills for grinding raw material are in No. 10. From there the raw materials go to No. 9, where the material is mixed and shaped into bricks. In No. 11 various forms are made from this material according to needs. From here and from No. 9, the products go to the drying house.

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Legend to Sketch of the Old Steel Plant, Vitkovice.

1. Works hospital, used for all workers and their families.
2. Works hotel: workers' dining rooms, CP meetings, and entertainment halls.
3. Works canteen.
4. Wages department for whole iron works and steel works.
5. New dining room, special diets requiring a doctor's certificate.
6. Tempering shop, 200 x 50 x 35 meters.
7. Forge, 200 x 50 x 35 meters. Heavy articles, such as wheels or large axles, are forged here.
8. Store of ingots for the forge, in same building as forge.
9. Preparation of ground mixture for fire clay bricks, 10 x 6 x 5 meters.
10. Mill for fire clay, 200 x 8 meters.
11. Mixing shop, 200 x 15 meters.
12. --- 16. Drying sheds for bricks.
17. Store for finished bricks.
18. 3 moulding pits; 20 x 10 meters, 12 x 4 meters, 12 x 4 meters.
19. Electric furnace, 30-ton.
20. Casting shop.
21. 6 Martin furnaces with a capacity of 44 tons of steel.
22. Chimneys, next to the department (200 x 6 meters) where nonflammable gases are produced. There are four generators.
23. Boiler shop, 25 x 30 meters.
24. Machine shop, 200 x 60 x 30 meters, ground floor; products roughly processed in the forge are finished here.
25. Tracks.
26. Narrow-gauge tracks.
27. Fence.
28. Group of huts.
29. Annealing furnaces.
30. Pumping station, 10 x 5 x 4 meters. Supplies water to the tempering shop and forge.
31. Pneumatic press.
32. Mixer.
33. Machines for grinding.
34. Conveyor belt.
35. Generators.

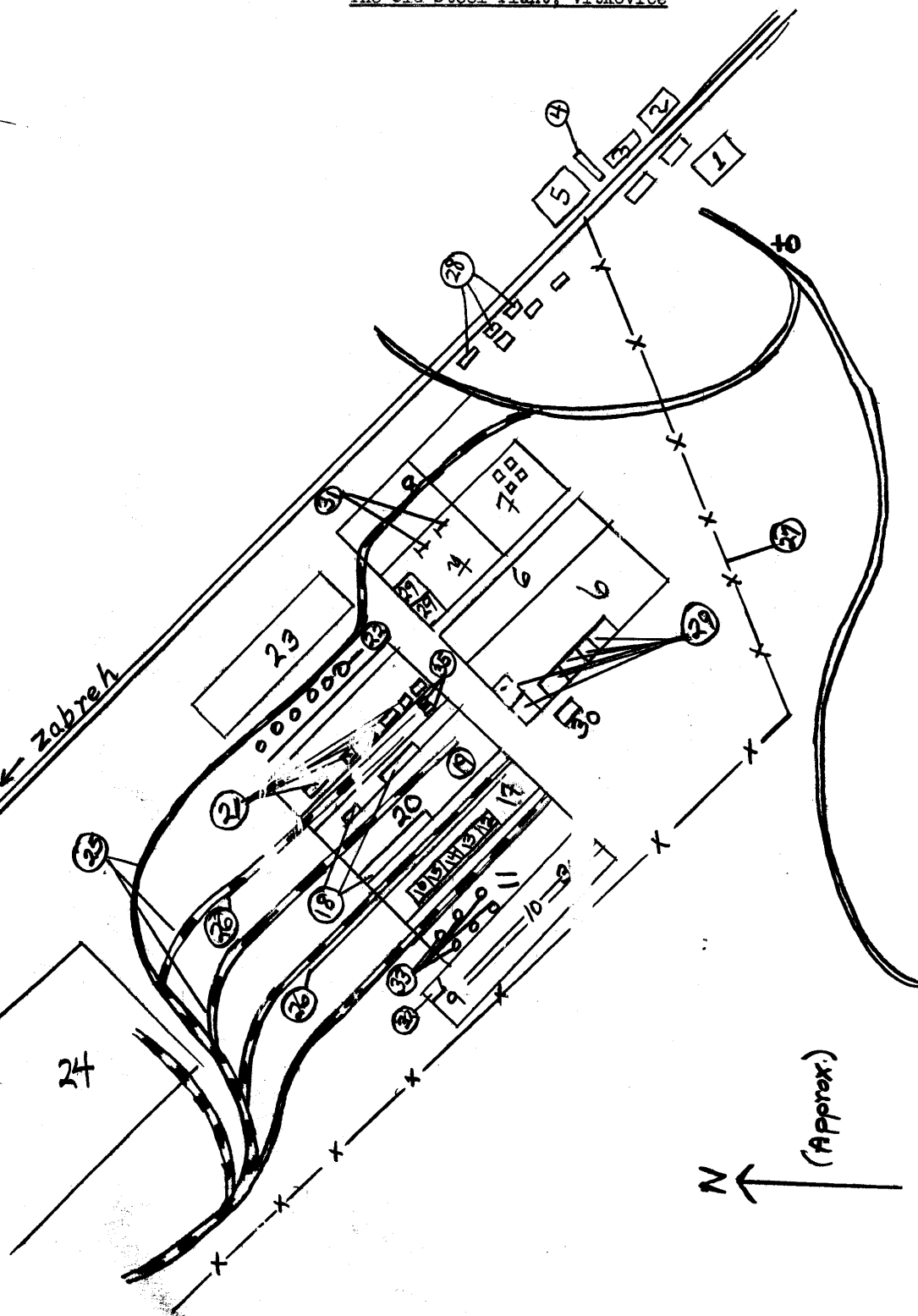
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The Old Steel Plant, Vitkovice



NOT TO SCALE

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